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### Committees

- Judiciary
- Government Operations  
& Elections



## 2006 Citizen Questionnaire—Send Me Your Views

**Bob McCaslin**  
Washington State Senator • 4th Legislative District

January 2006

Dear Neighbors:

I will soon be heading to Olympia for the start of the 2006 legislative session.

Before session begins on January 9, I wanted to give you a preview of some of the issues that I believe will be discussed, and to get your opinion on those issues.

In November, budget forecasters announced that Washington state has a \$1.4 billion surplus. While that is encouraging news, it also means that there will be a lot of temptation to spend all that money. I believe it is essential that the legislature practice restraint in spending to ensure money is available if and when we find ourselves in an economic downturn sometime in the future.

The high cost of health care and insurance coverage is still a major issue. It continues to be more and more expensive for individuals, businesses and government to purchase health care insurance. We need to explore viable options to these high costs, and to provide more choices for affordable health care insurance.

Other important issues include finding ways to lower energy costs, protecting our children from sex offenders and providing quality education.

These and other issues will be on the table for discussion and debate during the 2006 legislative session. It is very important to me to know what issues you want addressed in Olympia.

At the end of this newsletter is a questionnaire. Please take a moment to fill it out and mail it back. As always, I welcome you to contact me directly via e-mail or phone.

It continues to be an honor to represent you. I want to wish each and every one of you a very happy New Year.

Sincerely,

**Bob McCaslin**  
State Senator  
Fourth District

## Sex Offenders

One of our highest priorities is to protect our children. This legislative session, we will look to add a layer of protection for our children by addressing the issue of sex offenders. I strongly believe Washington state should join other states and follow Florida's lead in implementing what is known as "Jessica's Law."

The proposals in Jessica's Law include a minimum sentence of 25 years for a sex offender convicted of first-degree child rape or first-degree child molestation, electronic monitoring if the offender is released from prison, and an increased penalty for failure to register as a sex offender.

Now is the time to implement these new measures, especially following the Duncan case in Idaho where convicted child rapist Joseph Duncan is accused of killing several members of a family in order to sexually assault their two young children.



## Energy

High energy prices impact everyone. This winter, families and senior citizens will be faced with rising home heating bills. Senate Republicans vigorously called for a special session to address escalating heating costs and to expand the home heating assistance program. We also released a common sense plan to address the rising heating costs. This plan would put a cap on home heating taxes, encourage consumers to install "smart" energy technologies and reward farmers for growing the crops to make alternative fuels.



## Health Care

Fast-rising health care costs are a growing burden not only for individuals, families and employers, but also for state government. These costs are putting greater pressure on state operating budgets and siphoning off more and more revenues that could be used for other vital services.

State employees currently pay 12 percent of the premium cost of their health care insurance. The state pays 88 percent. Keeping up with this obligation added \$335 million to the state's 2005-2007 operating budget.

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) is one way to address this problem. HSAs are tax-free accounts that can be set up by individuals or employers and are coupled with catastrophic health care insurance policies. HSAs are consumer-driven plans, that allow people to weigh costs when making health care decisions. This option should be extended to state employees, and I will support legislation this session to offer this cost-saving option.

## Studded Tires



With winter well upon us, we look for ways to stay safe on the roads. Some of you may have opted for studded tires as a winter driving option. However, the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has several concerns about the effect these tires have on our roads.

Studded tires cause accelerated pavement damage to roadways and decrease the average life cycle of a pavement surface by about four years. WSDOT estimates it can cost up to \$10 million per year to fix the damage.

With a tight transportation budget, we in the Legislature will continue to debate this issue to see what we should do about studded tires and vehicle safety.

# 2006 Questionnaire

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Record your responses by shading the entire circle of your answer using a blue or black pen. Please do not write in the margins. Record any additional comments in the area provided on the back page. Thank you for providing me your valuable feedback.

**Shade circles like this:**  **Not like this:**  **Or this:** 

- 1) State government provides services in many different areas which affect the lives of Washingtonians. Which of these areas do you believe are the most significant issues facing our state? Please rank these issues according to importance (1 being the most important, 11 the least important):

	VOTER 1											VOTER 2										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A) Education .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B) Drugs & Crime .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C) Economy & Jobs .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D) Environment .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E) Growth Management.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
F) Health Care .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
G) Energy Costs.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
H) Social Services.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I) Transportation .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
J) Tax Cuts .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
K) Water Rights.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 2) What should the state do to address the issue of sexual predators?

	VOTER 1	VOTER 2
a) Current law is sufficient (first time offender convicted of first-degree child rape is sentenced to an average of 93 to 123 months) .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Increase sentencing for first-degree rape and first-degree child molestation offenders to a minimum of 25 years with lifetime supervision with electronic monitoring.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Offer rehabilitation for sex offenders .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 3) What is the best way to improve K-12 education?

a) Expand school choice for parents and students through vouchers and/or charter schools.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Reduce regulations to help eliminate teacher "red-tape" and give them more time with students .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Spend more money on our public school system.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Increase teacher salaries .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 4) What is the best way to make energy more affordable for families and businesses?

a) Expand renewable energy sources and alternative fuels through public-private partnerships, regulatory improvements and tax incentives.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Increase financial assistance to low income families.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Encourage use of "green fuels" .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Construct new oil refineries in our state..	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 5) What should we do about studded tires? **VOTER 1** **VOTER 2**

a) Ban them.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Keep them .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Allow use, but require a "time of purchase" excise tax .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Allow use, but require a yearly permit...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 6) When voting, should photo ID be required at the polls?

a) Yes.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) No.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Don't know .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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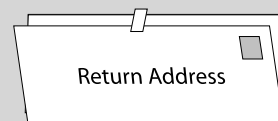
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## Mailing Instructions:

When you have completed your questionnaire, please fold up this document so my return address mail panel is visible, tape the open edge of the questionnaire and affix a first class stamp.



Return mail panel. Tape top edge before mailing.



Place  
First-Class  
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Here

Senator Bob McCaslin  
PO Box 40404  
Olympia, WA 98504-0404



Other Comments:



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